

# RIVERWAYS

**March 23 , 2004**

**News Notes #11**

*from the Massachusetts Riverways Programs*

## **Recap of Riverways' Work in 2003 and where we're heading in 2004**

*Dear River Advocates,*

All the Riverways Programs are based on the belief that local action and partnerships are key to river protection and restoration. As part of our planning for the upcoming year, we reviewed our work in 2003 and once again realized the intrinsic nature of our partnerships with all of you. This version of **NewsNotes** provides a brief synopsis of Riverways' work in 2003 and indicates where our programs are heading in the current year. The full **Executive Summary (2003)** of our programs—**Adopt-A-Stream**, **RIFLS**, **River Restore**, **Urban Rivers**, **Small Grants**, and the **Technical Assistance Team**, with photos and quotes —can be found in .pdf format on our web page at. <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/pdf/riverways2003summary.pdf>. I do hope you get a chance to look at the Summary on-line to see Riverways staff describe their work. Amy Singler of our staff did an excellent job of formatting it into a highly attractive and colorful document. For those of you that are short on time and/or are not able to read .pdf files, we have provided a stripped-down version of the Summary below.

A variety of private-public partnerships —called “cross sector” partnerships—were highlighted at a recent Rappaport Institute workshop at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Participants discussed the “the joint efforts among the public, nonprofit and private sectors to address economic and social issues—that have become a major part of the public policy landscape in recent years.” Riverways' Adopt-A-Stream Program was mentioned as one of the examples of a public agency working on cross-sector partnerships. Cross-sector partnerships fall into three basic categories: public-private partnerships (collaborations between one or more public agencies and private businesses), public-nonprofit partnerships (public agencies, nonprofit organizations or community groups) and Tri-sector partnerships (all three sectors). Hearing representatives from corporations, foundations, and nonprofit organizations from other fields (housing, culture/art) talk about the positive features, the challenges and opportunities is stimulating. Riverways—as well as most of you--have participated in partnerships—most often the public-nonprofit ones and the public-private partnerships. Through our work with the Watershed Initiative and Karen Pelto's participation on the Corporate Wetlands Partnership,

Riverways has experience with the Tri-sector partnership approach that has brought corporations, consulting firms, nonprofits and state government together.

On Saturday, March 6, Riverways attended the Mass. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions (MACC) annual meeting in Worcester, and partnered with other presenters for two workshop sessions: Karen speaking on the impacts and environmental hazards of dams and removing barriers to fish and wildlife movement in and along rivers (with Scott Jackson of UMass Extension) and Russ speaking on the science of vegetated buffers along waterways (with Lauren Gaherty from the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission). We were also there as an exhibiter. I was once again struck by all the possibilities of partnering with the private sector—finding ways to expand some of our public-nonprofit partnerships into tri-sector partnerships. I talked with consultants both at their booths and as they visited us at Riverways'. In some cases, they are trying to solve the same river problems as we are: protecting instream flow, riparian restoration, restoring water quality, creating sub-watershed plans. I have known some of these consultants in their former lives, as Stream Team members, as presidents of Watershed Associations, as state agency staff. As they work on projects, they may call some of us to discuss solutions, others of us may share local knowledge as these consultants go before Conservation Commissions. At the Mass. Land Trust Conference earlier this month, one of the sessions, organized and led by Russ Cohen, illustrated the possibilities of productive working partnerships for source water land protection between land trusts (TPL and TNC were presenters), water suppliers, watershed associations and stream teams. A future **NewsNotes** will highlight that issue. We welcome your ideas and experiences with partnerships as well as suggestions about future **NewsNotes** articles.

Riverways Programs has seen some staff changes recently. We all want to thank **Patricia Sheppard** for her work at Riverways for the past four years. Pat, in her many roles—Small Grants Administrator (1999), Program Manager (2000-1) and Assistant Director (2001-3)—brought fiscal brilliance, strategic thinking and her ability to create partnerships with all people in and out of agencies. Pat has been an outstanding colleague and friend to us all. Pat has joined the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as their Chief Fiscal Officer. Because Pat is just down the hall at DFW, we will be able to work together as partners.

Riverways is delighted to announce that **Eileen Goldberg**, our former Small Grants Administrator for the past two years, is now our Programs Administrator. Eileen brings an amazing fiscal astuteness, an outstanding ability to work on a variety of projects, and amazing people skills. Eileen helps all the programs with fiscal planning as well as serving as a mainstay here. We are so happy to have Eileen in this position.

Following the lead “article” highlighting the Riverways Programs’ work over the past and present years, this issue of **NewsNotes** includes the popular **Resources and Grants** section.

See you at one of the spring Rivers Conferences, a **Rivers Month** event (see notice below) and soon, in our kayaks, canoes, boats, with fishing poles, hiking boots and/or binoculars...on the



Thanks to our partners on the TAC, the local steering committees and planners and to the volunteers in these watersheds who make daily measurements! Without the work of these partners, instream flow data cannot inform smart growth decisions.

For 2004, with support from MET, Margaret plans to establish a certification program so that the existing groups can train new volunteers, expand their sites, and make discharge measurements. RIFLS groups need to have concerns about low instream flow, a suitable site on the stream and a committed volunteer base. RIFLS has received requests from new groups in the Parker, Saugus, South Coastal and Blackstone watersheds for 2004. To discuss RIFLS and prospects for working together, call Margaret at (617) 626-1533.

- Developing and piloting the **River Continuity Program** (identifying and removing barriers to fish and wildlife movement in and along stream corridors)

As long and linear ecosystems, rivers and streams are particularly vulnerable to fragmentation. In addition to natural barriers, a number of human activities can, to varying degrees, disrupt the continuity of river and stream ecosystems. The most familiar human-caused barriers are dams. However, there is growing evidence that road and railroad crossings of streams can disrupt aquatic habitats. So far, the most commonly observed problem at roadway culverts recorded by volunteers in pilot subwatersheds has been the outlet drop, where the culvert is “perched” above the streambed, preventing the movement of fish and other aquatic life. The pilot surveys clearly show that at least one out of five stream crossings disrupt river continuity and that local groups are eager to follow up to promote and implement restorative action.

Collaborating with UMASS Extension and other state and local partners, River Restore has created River Continuity, an opportunity for volunteers and local communities to participate in the inventory and assessment of culverts and other road crossings of streams and implement on-the-ground demonstration projects to retrofit, replace, or modify culverts that create barriers to fish and wildlife movement. Using data sheets prepared by Riverways and its partners, Adopt-A-Stream staff has been working with MA Waterwatch Partners on pilot volunteer surveys.

In 2004, Adopt-A-Stream and River Restore staff plan to work with existing Stream Teams, TU and other angler groups, watershed associations and new groups to identify problematic culverts and recommend mediation—either retrofits or replacement. We will support local groups as they work with local and state highway departments on implementation. We welcome inquiries about working together—in western MA, call Carrie Banks [(413) 773-5031)], in the rest of the state call Amy Singler [(617) 626-1548].

- Developing a (first in the nation) watershed-scale assessment of the **Environmental Risk of Dams**

Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, River Restore has drafted a proposed GIS-based analytical framework, the Index of Environmental Risk, to (1) assess the environmental impact of dams on aquatic resources from their contributions to environmental degradation, and (2) characterize the environmental hazard to aquatic and other public resources from the uncontrolled breach or catastrophic failure of dams. This process will focus scarce public dollars on necessary and environmentally appropriate dam repair and dam removal projects and will provide the baseline information necessary for dam owners, municipalities, and grassroots conservation organizations to address dams in their watershed communities. After hearing Karen Pelto give a presentation in the Northeast on the Index of Environmental Risk, EPA has invited (and is flying) Karen to Kansas City, MO to make a presentation there. In addition, Brian Graber will present information on the Index to the U.S. Society on Dams at their annual conference.

In 2004 we will be exploring ways to query natural resource data in the GIS to assist in subwatershed management of dams as well as working with the USGS to calibrate and validate a predictive model to rank the relative toxicity of impounded sediment behind dams.

- Restoring Yokum Brook through the removal of Silk Mill Dam in Becket

Restoring habitat for coldwater fisheries in Yokum Brook is well underway with the removal of Silk Mill Dam in Becket in February 2003. The Taconic Chapter of Trout Unlimited is leading an effort to provide ongoing community stewardship of the fishery by implementing the Atlantic Salmon Egg Rearing Program in the Becket-Washington Elementary School with support from a Massachusetts Outdoor Classroom and EPA Environmental Education grant.

In 2004, we need to secure funding for an alternative source of water for fire protection at Ballou Dam. Then we will be ready to breach the dam and install a "nature-like fishway" in the brook downstream.

- Producing renderings of the Neponset River restoration and conducting sediment analyses

In response to public questions about the aesthetics of various fish passage alternatives on the Neponset River, River Restore led a process to develop several conceptual renderings (landscape illustrations and retouched photographs) that reflect community interests and ecological goals. River Restore managed a study by the USGS that provides comprehensive data on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the water column and sediment in the lower Neponset. [www.state.ma.us/dfwele/RIVER/NeponsetFish/Neponset\\_toc.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/RIVER/NeponsetFish/Neponset_toc.htm)

In 2004, we look forward to engaging community, state, and federal decision-makers in a

discussion about options to cleanup contaminated sediment in the lower Neponset so that anadromous fish and ecological restoration can move forward.

### Providing new approaches to providing **Adopt-A-Stream Technical Assistance** statewide

To support existing Stream Teams with project implementation, Adopt-A-Stream provided two new innovative technical assistance programs as well as grant writing, public access development and followup survey support to active Stream Teams. With the new Implementation Awards, provided on-the ground assistance to three groups in the Ipswich and Parker River Watersheds, four groups in the SuAsCo Rivers Watershed and one group in the Housatonic. These projects have and will lead to water conservation efforts, new canoe launches, increased public access and buffer enhancement, stormwater awareness, increased river stewardship and protection of biodiversity. Partnering with Riverways Technical Assistance staff, developed a new service for Stream Teams that would “grant” Riverways technical assistance staff time to Stream Team implementation projects selected through a competitive process. This service will help to supplement the Adopt-A-Stream staff’s continued services to Stream Teams.

In 2003, Adopt-A-Stream worked with 38 communities in 17 watersheds, involving hundreds of volunteers and leveraging thousands of hours of work on behalf of rivers and communities.

For 2004, in addition to continued work with new Stream Teams and with River Continuity groups, Adopt-A-Stream staff will support RIFLS groups and continue to emphasize implementation of projects that lead to restoration and protection of our rivers and our communities. To discuss your ideas, call Rachel Calabro at (617) 626-1549.

### Revitalizing urban rivers and neighborhoods. In 2003, the **Urban Rivers Program** was able to assist:

- Fall River with planning and assessment to secure grants and outreach for the Quequechan River
- Lawrence in its efforts to revitalize the Spicket River neighborhoods through community events, clean ups and outreach
- Fitchburg in its active renewal plans which include open space acquisition and restoration of the North Nashua River
- Gloucester and its efforts to assess and prioritize sites for restoration in order to pursue implementation funds
- Chicopee by directing and managing a project to assess degraded streams in and near the city
- Quincy and Brockton by providing training and assistance on water resources issues

In 2004, Urban Rivers is planning a charrette to provide a forum for the diverse population of Fitchburg to express their opinions regarding the future of the river corridor and learn more about

waterfront revitalization and their own North Nashua River system. The charrette process will create the foundation of ideas and possibilities to be incorporated into a master plan that shows how the North Nashua River can resume its status as a significant resource for the community. The Charrette is scheduled for **April 24th**.

Riverways' **Technical Assistance Team** helps citizens, municipalities and watershed groups to protect and restore river corridors, ecological systems, and community redevelopment. In 2003, Technical Assistance included:

- Explanations and comments on environmental regulations such as MEPA, NPDES, Interbasin Transfer Act, Water Management Act, Rivers Protection Act, etc. on 63 streams in 23 watersheds.
- Assistance in riparian restoration, trails, land and easement acquisition on 15 streams in 11 watersheds
- Assistance in identifying and securing funding for river-related projects on 11 streams in 8 watersheds
- Continued development of a **Low Flow Inventory** web page
- Assistance in providing public access on 7 streams in 7 watersheds
- Partnering with DFW to achieve better recognition of and protection for cold water fisheries
- Partnering with DFW to develop a target fish community for the Housatonic River.
- Participation in advisory committees on statewide issues such as instream flow, water assets, and low impact development
- Assistance in documenting pollution in rivers including the Concord, Taunton and Blackstone Rivers.
- Riverways works in partnership with the National Park Service, state agencies, cities, towns and nonprofits on three National Wild and Scenic Rivers

### Completing the **Lake/Watershed Stewardship Pilot**

Under a §319 competitive EPA Grant through DEP that ran through 2003, Riverways:

- Created a nonpoint source training for volunteer groups



Wrote survey data sheets for lakes and uplands

- Trained 185 volunteers on 22 lakes and ponds and sections of 31 streams in a variety of watersheds; supported surveys, facilitated action planning meetings and oversaw reports
- Established a Train-the-Trainer Program in Western MA, Connecticut, Central Mass, North Shore and Cape Cod to continue the program
- Wrote a leaders manual to coordinate a volunteer Lake Watershed Survey
- Developing and distributing Riverways **NewsNotes** electronic newsletter

This year, Riverways instituted **NewsNotes**—a short, bimonthly newsletter—delivered electronically to provide both more timely information about river issues and to save paper and postage. Each issue of **NewsNotes** highlights a river issue, provides extensive information on Resources and Grants for river protection/restoration and gives a brief update of current Riverways activities.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with Riverways on any of these issues—by phone, email or in person. Riverways welcomes your idea.

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## YOUR events wanted for the 2004 Massachusetts Rivers Month Calendar

Hi Folks – it's that time again. As you (may) know, each spring since 1988 the Mass. Riverways Program has put out an annual **Massachusetts Rivers Month Calendar** as part of the national celebration of **Rivers Month** each **June**. As many of you also organize great river-related events in May and July as well, we typically expand the "Rivers Month" concept a bit to include river-related events from mid-May to the July 4th weekend. So this year we intend to include all river-related events we hear about that will take place from Sat. May 15th to Sun. July 4th. If you haven't already got one or more events planned for that period, there's still time to organize something. Rivers Month is a great opportunity for river and watershed groups, stream teams and all other river enthusiasts to schedule activities that promote public awareness of the importance of clean, flowing rivers and protected riparian lands to the Commonwealth's environmental and economic well-being.

In order to list the events in the Calendar we need to know about them, so please send them in (via e-mail, fax, snail mail or the telephone, whichever form is most convenient to you). The information we need is outlined below. For your convenience, a Rivers Month Calendar event



form is posted on-line at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/river/riversmonth.htm>.

Unfortunately, due to the current state budget situation, we are only able to post an on-line version of the 2004 Calendar on Riverways' webpage (<http://www.massriverways.org>) instead of printing and mailing it as we have done in previous years. We will be sending out an e-mail message announcement when the 2004 Massachusetts Rivers Month Calendar is posted (probably around Wed. May 12th). One way to make sure you or others get this announcement is for you or them to join the MassRiverways listserv (<http://www.topica.com/lists/MassRiverways> ).

To include all river-related events (canoe trips, river festivals, river art exhibitions, etc.) taking place in Massachusetts between 5/15-7/4/04, we are requesting that all event sponsors fill in a rivers Month event form for the Mass. Rivers Month Calendar by **Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004**. (NOTE: If you can't make this deadline, send the info in to us anyway, and we will try to squeeze your event in to the Calendar – no promises, though.) Please feel free to circulate this message to anyone you feel is appropriate. We look forward to learning about and publicizing your events.

Name of Event:

Date and Time of Event:

Location of Event:

Watershed group and/or other sponsor:

Contact Person:

Mailing address:

Phone:

E-mail/Web:

Description of event:

Send information on or before **Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, to [Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us)

Mailed forms should be sent to:

Mass. Riverways Programs

251 Causeway St., Fourth Floor

Boston, MA 02114

Fax: 617-626-1505

Questions or comments- Please contact Russ Cohen at (617) 626-1543 or [russ.cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:russ.cohen@state.ma.us).

## GRANTS

The **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection** (DEP) is expected to release

its Request for Responses (RFR) for the 2004 round of funding under its **§319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grants Program** (<http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/mf/files/ggguide.pdf>) on or around **Friday, April 9, 2004**, with proposals due on **Wednesday, June 2, 2004**. Two changes to the program for this year's funding round are a new category for development of **watershed-based plans** and demonstration projects utilizing "in-lake" best management practices (BMPs). Projects in areas covered by NPDES stormwater regulations may be eligible, but will be looked at carefully, so applicants should pay attention to the constraints. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact DEP (Jane Peirce, §319 Coordinator, (508) 767-2792, [jane.peirce@state.ma.us](mailto:jane.peirce@state.ma.us)) before the RFR comes out to discuss your project ideas and to help develop a successful proposal.

### **Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust**

<http://www.hembar.com/cox>

The Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust is interested in a broad range of environmental issues throughout the six-state New England region. Most recently, Cox Trustees have been funding land use and smart growth projects, urban environmental justice activities, coastal issues, water quality and habitat, climate change, open space and environmental health. They are interested in a range of strategies, from state and regional policy activities, to community organizing and implementation, with a keen interest in underserved populations (socio-economic, geographic, ethnic, and more). The average annual grant is about \$35,000, with grants generally in the range of \$25,000 to \$75,000. Although the Trustees occasionally award grants outside this range, the Trust ordinarily does not consider grant requests for less than \$20,000. Applicants are asked to approach the Trust either through a telephone call to discuss the appropriateness of a proposed project, followed by a concept paper, or through initial submission of a concept paper. Concept papers are reviewed on a quarterly basis; the next deadline is **April 15**. For more information, contact Kathy McHugh, Cox Trust Program Director [(617) 227-7940 x775, [kmchugh@hembar.com](mailto:kmchugh@hembar.com)].

### **Davis Conservation Foundation**

The Davis Conservation Foundation was established by H. Halsey and Phyllis Davis of Falmouth, Maine, in the mid-1980s and funds nonprofit organizations' environmental work throughout Maine and the rest of New England. Although wildlife habitat restoration projects in northern New England are preferred, other kinds of conservation projects from other regions will be considered. Grants typically range in size from \$1,500-\$15,000. Proposals may be considered anytime (there is no application deadline). For more information, contact Nancy Winslow, Executive Director, Davis Conservation Foundation, 4 Fundy Rd. Falmouth, ME 04105, (207) 781-5504.

### **REI Grants and other Community Programs**

[http://www.rei.com/aboutrei/gives02.html?stat=side\\_32](http://www.rei.com/aboutrei/gives02.html?stat=side_32)

The outdoor equipment retailer REI donates over \$1 million each year to support trails, rivers, and wildlands in the communities in which it does business through grants and outreach

programs. REI dedicates a portion of its operating profits to help protect and restore the environment, increase access to outdoor activities, and encourage involvement in muscle-powered recreation. REI employees nominate organizations, projects, and programs in which they are personally involved to receive funding or gear donations (i.e., unsolicited proposals are **not** accepted; you need to make friends with a local REI store and/or employee. REI retail stores are located in Boston, Reading and Framingham, MA.) REI also participates and coordinates hands-on volunteer service projects. Annually each store organizes a local environmental stewardship project dedicated to restoring and improving areas in which we enjoy outdoor recreation.

## **RiverSmart Grants**

<http://www.riversmart.org>

Using funds provided by the **EPA, River Network** (<http://www.rivernetwork.org>) will be making a limited number of small grants (up to \$5,000) to help river and watershed organizations implement the **RiverSmart** campaign in their local communities. Using mass media tools, the RiverSmart campaign gives audiences some simple things they can do in and around their homes to help protect the health of their local rivers. River and watershed groups can attach their own name and logo to the RiverSmart TV, radio and print ads and use the campaign to raise their organizational profile as well as to educate community members. If you are interested, please review the campaign materials and messages at [www.riversmart.org](http://www.riversmart.org), click on "Newsroom", and then contact Glin Varco, RiverSmart Coordinator, at [gvarco@rivernetwork.org](mailto:gvarco@rivernetwork.org) or (503) 542-8393.

## **Environmental Justice Hazardous Substances Research Small Grants**

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/grants/small-grants-guidance-2004.pdf>

The **U.S. EPA** is inviting proposals for small grants up to \$25,000 to affected local community-based organizations to support research projects to examine issues related to a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. Issues of environmental justice often involve multiple sources of contamination, their cumulative impacts on the environment, and their effect on human health. Some of these sources may include multiple industrial facilities and the various contaminants they emit, environmental hazards at the workplace or home, transportation-related pollution, contamination from drinking water, or contamination resulting from the consumption of fish or other subsistence food. A more holistic approach to environmental protection goes beyond setting limits for individual pollutants and facilities in isolation. Information must take into account the multiple impacts of all pollutants in the environment. In environmentally overburdened low-income, minority or tribal communities, a focus on the impacts from multiple environmental harms and risks can greatly assist the communities in understanding their environmental issues and developing more effective solutions to their environmental and/or public health concerns. Projects may include the following activities: (1) research related to the detection, assessment and evaluation of the effects on and risks to human health from hazardous substances and the detection of hazardous substances in the environment; (2) design and demonstrate field methods, practices, and techniques, including assessment of environmental and ecological conditions and analysis

of environmental and public health problems; (3) identification and assessment of multiple environmental harms and risks and/or public health concerns in the affected community; (4) case studies on practices and techniques for detecting and effectively responding to hazardous substance contamination; and (5) identification of institutional and public policy barriers to detecting, assessing and evaluating hazardous substance contamination in affected communities. The application deadline is **Friday, April 30, 2004**. For more information, contact Kathy Castagna [(617) 918-1429, [castagna.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:castagna.kathleen@epa.gov)] or Davina Wysin [(617) 918-1020, [wysin.davina@epa.gov](mailto:wysin.davina@epa.gov)].

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## ON-LINE RESOURCES

### **American Non-Profit Technology Alliance (ANPTA)**

<http://www.anpta.com/>

The Alliance is a large non-profit technology initiative in the United States, open to 20,000 non-profits, with members receiving a host of technology products and services at no charge. To become a member, the Alliance asks that you complete a short membership form on its web page. There are no membership fees. Over time, Alliance members will be asked to participate in surveys on your non-profit and its use and experiences with technology. These results will be tabulated and reported to over 4,500 media, government, non-profit, university and corporate contacts. The objective of the survey is to enhance funding and awareness for non-profit's technology needs. All participants will receive a copy of the reports as they are published. There are never any fees paid to the Alliance by its members. Alliance members may receive several or all of the following member benefits:

Hardware/Software Donations; Technology Consulting; Free Software Downloads; Funding and Technology Newsletter; Education Programs; and an Extensive Resource Library.

### **American Rainwater Catchment Harvesting Association**

<http://www.arcsa-usa.org/>

ARCSA was founded in Austin, Texas to promote rainwater catchment systems in the United States. Membership consists of professionals working in city, state, and federal government, academia, manufacturers and suppliers of rainwater harvesting equipment, consultants, and other interested individuals. ARCSA's objectives are to promote rainwater catchment systems through meetings and seminars, to provide networking between people with experience in rainwater catchment systems and those who might need technical or professional assistance in developing or building such systems, to provide a forum for discussion of new methods, techniques, and materials pertaining to rainwater catchment systems, to develop informal publications to assist in the design and use of rainwater catchment systems, and to establish acceptable treatment methods for harvested rainwater.

ARCSA publishes a newsletter to keep members informed of developments in this growing field.

ARCSA publications and events are free or discounted to members. Membership in ARCSA (only \$30/yr, \$15 for students) is open to anyone interested in rainwater catchment systems. [Similar info from Texas is available on-line at [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder/fs\\_rainharvest.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/greenbuilder/fs_rainharvest.htm)].

### **Americans for our Heritage and Recreation (AHR)**

<http://www.ahrinfo.org/whatsnew.html>

AHR is a broad and diverse organization representing conservationists, the recreation and sporting goods industries, park and recreation specialists, wildlife enthusiasts, advocates for urban and wilderness areas, preservationists of cultural and historic sites, land trust advocates, the youth sports community, and civic groups seeking to revitalize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR). The web link above takes you to AHR's "What's New" page, where you can get up-to-date info on the various efforts to secure adequate federal funding for land and water conservation, wildlife habitat protection and similar programs at the local, state and federal level.

### **Environmental Integrity Project**

<http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/page27.cfm>

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in March of 2002 to advocate for more effective enforcement of environmental laws. The organization was founded by Eric Schaeffer, with support from the Rockefeller Family Fund and other foundations. Mr. Schaeffer directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Regulatory Enforcement until 2002, when he resigned after publicly expressing his frustration with efforts of the Bush Administration to weaken enforcement of the Clean Air Act and other laws. EIP's three objectives are: to provide objective analysis of how the failure to enforce or implement environmental laws increases pollution and affects the public's health; to hold federal and state agencies, as well as individual corporations, accountable for failing to enforce or comply with environmental laws; and to help local communities in key states obtain the protection of environmental laws. The link above will take you to the **Clean Water Act** section of EIP's web page and a recently-released report entitled "**Swimming in Sewage**", which describes an emerging environmental and public health crisis resulting from our nation's failure to effectively treat sewage. It found that sewage from homes, businesses and factories often never reaches a treatment plant and, when it does, too often it is not treated adequately to protect public health.

### **Frogwatch USA**

<http://www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA>

Frogwatch USA is a long-term frog and toad monitoring program managed by the **National Wildlife Federation** in partnership with the **United States Geological Survey** to collect information about frog and toad populations in the U.S., promote an appreciation for the diversity of frog and toad species, foster an understanding of the importance of protecting wetland habitats and provide an opportunity to learn about and establish a closer relationship with the natural environment. Anyone can volunteer! You do not have to be a frog or toad expert to make



a contribution; all you need is an interest in frogs and toads. This web page will teach you the nine easy steps of how to observe and report on frogs. Click on the U.S. map to see which frog species live in your area (links to photos and narrative descriptions are provided for each species) and data collected by local frogwatchers already active in your area.

### **Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds**

<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone/vernal.pdf>

This 36-page on-line guide is designed to help private landowners, teachers and biologists establish vernal ponds (ephemeral wetlands). Learn how to select a suitable location for, design and build a vernal pond that looks and functions like a natural wetland. Find out how to establish a wetland that contains water long enough for aquatic plants, hydric soils and amphibian larvae to develop. Hard copy versions of this document are available [contact [missyeldridge@fs.fed.us](mailto:missyeldridge@fs.fed.us) or (606) 784-6428]. **[NOTE:** Vernal Pond creation may be subject to local and/or state environmental permitting or other review; you are strongly advised to contact your local conservation commission beforehand.]

### **Logical Lasting Launches – Design Guidance for Canoe and Kayak Launches**

<http://nps.gov/rtca/helpfultools/launchguide.pdf>

The **National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program** (RTCA, <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>) recently announced the availability of this on-line document, which is intended to help anyone properly site, design, construct and maintain paddler access points to waterways. Facilities ranging in size and complexity from simple flat rocks to elaborate floating and cantilevered docks are presented and illustrated with photographs. (This 117pp. on-line document is a 4.6 MB .pdf file and may take a may a few minutes to load.) For more information, contact author Caroline Wolf ([cwolf1976@yahoo.com](mailto:cwolf1976@yahoo.com)) or Corita Jones ([corita\\_jones@nps.gov](mailto:corita_jones@nps.gov)).

### **Protect Your Waters – Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers**

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net>

Sponsored by the **Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force**, (<http://www.anstaskforce.gov>), this web site explains why nuisance aquatic species are a problem and how to prevent and control their spread. Similar info for Massachusetts is presented at <http://www.mass.gov/lakesandponds> (see the **Weed Watcher's Program**, <http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/lakepond/weedwatch.htm>). This program is one component of a larger effort coordinated by the **MA Office of Coastal Zone Management** focused on protecting marine and freshwater habitats called the **Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan** (<http://www.mass.gov/czm/invasivemanagementplan.htm>). For more information on the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, or to obtain a copy of the fact sheet, *Aquatic Invasive Species in Massachusetts*, contact Jay Baker at [jason.baker@state.ma.us](mailto:jason.baker@state.ma.us).

### **The Green Guide – Report on Water-Saving Washing Machines and other Appliances**

<http://www.thegreenguide.com/reports/product.mhtml?id=59&sec=1>

Published by **The Green Guide Institute**, an independent media service designed to provide news, information and educational material to consumers and others, the Green Guide's mission is to bring you the most objective, responsible and accurate environmental and health information you will find in print or on the web, with the goal that the Green Guide serve as your most practical, reliable, and trustworthy content source for product choices and daily practices that are better for health and the environment. The Green Guide takes much of the work out of behaving responsibly. By doing the research for you – and going to more depth than other information sources – it removes one of the biggest obstacles to behavior change, not knowing what to do. The web link above will take you to a highly informative and recently-issued report on **water-saving appliances**.

### **Trout Stocking in Massachusetts**

<http://www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw/Dfwtrout.htm>

Bay State anglers can look forward to 505,000 feisty brook, brown, rainbow and tiger trout being stocked this spring according to figures released by **MassWildlife**. "We'll be putting out more than 238,300 rainbow trout averaging over a foot long," observes Chief Fish Culturist Dr. Ken Simmons. "They'll be distributed statewide throughout the stocking season by our five regional Wildlife District offices." 47,500 brown trout in the 12-inch class will be stocked along with 38,000 browns in the over 9 inch range and 35,000 in the 6-9 inch range. The larger water bodies will receive the larger fish with the smaller brooks and streams receiving the younger fish. Brook trout will be stocked in a similar fashion with 30,400 fish measuring a foot or better, 81,400 greater than 9 inches and 5,000 in the 6 – 9 inch class. Anglers can also anticipate trying to tame some of the 4,800 tiger trout to be released, all topping the 14 inch mark. These handsome fish, a cross between a female brown trout and a male brook trout, have become popular with folks lucky enough to land one. Finally, about 600 brook, brown and rainbow trout will hit the water already measuring more than 18 inches. These trophies, along with the rest of the fish produced at MassWildlife hatcheries, will be stocked beginning when snow and mud conditions abate, allowing the 2-ton District tank trucks access to the waterways. Trout stocking activities will be underway by the end of March with the Southeast District area to be stocked first. Once trout stocking begins, weekly reports will be posted on-line at the web link above. You may also call the nearest District office: Western 413/447-9789; Valley 413/323-7632; Central 508/835-3607; Northeast 978/263-4347 or Southeast 508/759-3406. And don't forget to Take A Kid Fishing!

### **World Rivers Review**

<http://www.irn.org/pubs/wrr/issues/WRR.V18.N2.pdf>

A publication of the **International Rivers Network** (IRN, <http://www.irn.org>), the World Rivers Review newsletter includes extensive and informative articles on grassroots efforts to protect the world's river systems. The link above is to a newsletter issue that contains (on pp.8-9) an article entitled ***"Connecting the Drops: Holistic Watershed Approaches Take Some U.S. Cities by Storm"***, which highlights several inspiring examples of how communities are recharging aquifers and streamflow in urban areas through tree planting, rainwater harvesting and other innovative



techniques.

## CALENDAR

Scenic country roads are a distinguishing characteristic of rural towns, and improvements along them are often a much-debated topic in small towns. On **Saturday, April 3rd**, the **Highland Communities Initiative** (<http://www.highlandcommunities.org>) is sponsoring a **Rural Roads Seminar** at the Cummington Community House to discuss road classification, improvement, and discontinuance. State, regional, and local experts will present information on topics such as the road improvement process, public involvement in road projects, discontinuance of town and county roads, and programs to preserve the rural character of special roads. State Representative **Steve Kulik** will give the opening keynote address. Registration is \$10, or \$15 including lunch. Registration materials are available on-line or by calling Wendy Sweetser at (413) 587-0716 ext. 13.

The **Mystic Watershed Collaborative** is sponsoring a conference entitled **Mystic 2010: Research Supporting Watershed Goals** on **Saturday, April 3rd, 2004** from 12:30PM - 4:30PM at Tufts University, Anderson Hall, 200 College Ave, Medford, MA. Experts will discuss their most recent findings from water quality, restoration, and land-use studies. These research presentations will be followed by a respondent panel and discussion on the future research needs of the Mystic watershed and the integration of research, policy, and actions bringing us closer to the current stated goal of a swimmable, fishable Mystic by 2010. This conference is for community members and organizations, municipal officials, professors, students, and state officials to engage in current and future watershed research through learning about watershed issues, exchanging ideas and building collaborations. The conference is free and open to the public. There will be time for casual networking, poster presentations, and light refreshments. An optional donation of \$10 will assist in purchasing supplies for high school water quality monitoring programs. For more info, visit <http://www.mysticriver.org>, call (617) 627-3076. RSVP to [julie@mysticriver.org](mailto:julie@mysticriver.org). The Mystic Watershed Collaborative is a partnership between the **Mystic River Watershed Association** and **Tufts University**.

The **New England Water Works Association** (NEWWA) is sponsoring an all-day seminar entitled "**Growing 'Green' Lawns and Gardens**" on **Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** at NEWWA's headquarters in Holliston. **Samantha Woods** of the North and South Rivers Association is one of the presenters. The morning panel will be made up of professionals who are preaching and teaching "green" gardening - low/no pesticides, water conservation, native plants, etc. The afternoon panel consists of utility professionals who are outreaching to their consumers in a variety of ways - xeriscape demo gardens, school programs, etc. Nonprofit groups can attend the conference at the NEWWA members' rate. More info is available by calling the NEWWA office at (508) 893-7979 or by going on-line to [http://www.newwa.org/training/course\\_listings.php?course\\_id=143&page=description](http://www.newwa.org/training/course_listings.php?course_id=143&page=description).

**MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program** in partnership with the **Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC)** and **Ode News** is sponsoring the **2004 New England Odonate Conference** to be held on **Saturday, April 17** at the Miller's River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol. Representatives from state government, private non-profit conservation organizations, and universities from across New England and New York will be presenting information about dragonfly and damselfly studies. This is an excellent opportunity to gain a better understanding of regional status and distribution of odonates as well as learn about exciting research happening in our area. The registration deadline is **March 31** and it is strongly advised that people pre-register as soon as possible due to limited space. Registration is available on-line at <http://www.odes.millersriver.net> or by mailing a \$20.00 check made out to "ABNC" to Ode Conference, Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331. For more information, contact Jennifer Loose at (508) 792-7270 x313.

The **Southeastern Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative (SEMEC)** is sponsoring a conference entitled **Southeastern Massachusetts: Solutions for a Region at Risk** on **Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30AM - 3:30PM at Bridgewater State College. Local officials, active citizens and others are invited to attend this conference which will include presentations, workshops and strategy sessions focused on protecting critical environmental resources and improving land use planning and decision-making. For more information, call (toll-free) (888) 239-8327 or visit the SEMEC website at <http://www.se-mass-envirosolutions.org/>

The **Nashua River Watershed Association (NWRA)** is hosting a **Trail Building, Design and Construction** workshop at its headquarters in Groton on **Saturday, May 15, 2004** from 9AM to 3PM. The NRWA and the **MA Forest Stewardship Program** will co-sponsor the event to be led by the nationally-recognized expert in this field, **Peter Jensen** of Openspace Management (PO Box 316, Great Barrington, MA 01230 W: 413-298-3162 Fax: 413-528-6054 [opespace@bcn.net](mailto:opespace@bcn.net)). It will be limited to 20 registrants and will cost just \$20 for the day to cover part of the expenses and to assure that those most interested participate. To sign up, contact Al Futterman [(978) 448-0299 or [alfutterman@nashuariverwatershed.org](mailto:alfutterman@nashuariverwatershed.org)].

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## PUBLICATIONS

Just in time for fishing season, **Purgatory Cove Press** and author David Kaplan have reissued updated versions of his four fishing guidebooks covering various fishing opportunities in Massachusetts' Middlesex County. **Fishing Guide to Middlesex Stocked Trout Streams** covers all 39 streams that the Mass. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife stocks with trout in Middlesex County. As in all David Kaplan's guide books, it describes the waters, including detailed driving directions and parking tips. A map shows all the roads, bridges, culverts, marshes and other important features. Larger streams have two or three maps to provide adequate detail to plan a trip. The text describes the fishing situation to answer anglers'

questions such as: What part of the stream is stocked and where? With what trout species? Are there native brookies here? Is this a freestone stream or does it have a sand or mud bottom? What flies might work here? What other techniques will work? Is this stream big enough to float a canoe? And so on. ***Fishing Guide to Middlesex Rivers, Second Edition*** contains complete angler information on all 10 major rivers that flow through the 54 Middlesex cities and towns. Middlesex Rivers details fishing opportunities on the Charles, Mystic, Assabet, Sudbury, Concord, Nashua, Shawsheen, Merrimack, Squannacook and Nissitissit Rivers. Includes hundreds of public access points, all the boat ramps, and dozens of canoe launch areas. Has advice on fishing for various species from local experts. Read about best spots and techniques, lure and fly selections and seasonal tips to catch large- and smallmouth bass, trout, trophy pike . . . even huge carp and migrating salmon. 260 pages, including dozens of detailed maps. These books, along with ***Fishing Guide to North Middlesex Ponds***, and ***Fishing Guide to South Middlesex Ponds***, sell for \$16.95 and every bait and tackle shop in Middlesex County carries them as well as Orvis Stores, outdoor outfitters and several independent bookstores. They may also be ordered directly from the publisher by calling (781) 647-0408. (Add 85 cents per book in Massachusetts for sales tax and \$3.00 for shipping on direct orders to cover any quantity of books ordered.) For more information, contact David Kaplan at [dsk7@comcast.net](mailto:dsk7@comcast.net).

Nothing concentrates the mind on property law so well as the prospect of your neighbor setting up a 960-acre industrial hog farm next door. It was just that possibility that drove two Iowa couples to court in 1995, and their case serves as a compelling launching point for environmental law professor Eric Freyfogle's examination of the general notion of property rights: the lengths to which government can go in regulating a landowner's rights, the evolution of property law in the United States, and how we might intelligently reshape the law for the benefit of everyone -- and everything -- that lives on the land. In ***The Land We Share: Private Property and the Common Good***, (Island Press/Shearwater, 324 pp., \$25), Freyfogle chronicles the evolution of property law in the United States by introducing the theories of John Locke and Henry George; to Aldo Leopold's concept of "the land community," an organic whole of which humans are a part; and to Wendell Berry's call for a vision of private property with a "new mix of landowner rights and responsibilities." In the end, Freyfogle makes a convincing case for an "ecologically and ethically guided attitude toward private land," a welcome idea in an era of unchecked sprawl with vistas of redundant golf courses. *The Land We Share* can be ordered on-line from <http://www.IslandPress.org> or by calling (800) 828-1302.

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